



ST MONICA'S NEWSLETTER

Friday 11th September

100 Year Mass with the Archbishop

Last week, we were delighted to welcome the Archbishop to St Monica's Church to celebrate our school's 100th birthday. In his homily, he reflected on St Monica's patience and unconditional love as a parent.

The celebration was made even more special as our amazing altar servers were enrolled into the Guild of St Stephen, an international Catholic organisation that encourages altar servers to serve with reverence, prayerfulness and commitment. We are very proud of them and grateful for the important part they play in our parish.

Father Ged was beaming with pride.

The Archbishop also spent quality time with parishioners and our staff, making this a warm and memorable occasion for our school and parish community. A lovely way to celebrate 100 years of St Monica's.



School Instagram Launch Next Week

We have decided to stop posting on Twitter/X and are launching our school Instagram account!

Staff are rolling up their sleeves to share the learning, achievements and everyday moments that make St Monica's special. Please bear with us as we develop our video skills. With staff training planned this term, we look forward to bringing school life in new and creative ways. Please be patient! We have set ourselves the challenge for all classes to post a video next week, so why not join us?

[@stmonicascatholicprimary](#)





Let's make a real difference

We were delighted to welcome Alison into assembly today to tell us about her wonderful work supporting children with albinism in Tanzania. Alison is fundraising for prescription glasses to help children see clearly and access their learning. Each pair costs over £200, and many children go through school without the glasses they need.

We are going to link with one class and build a lasting connection with them. They will send us a video so that our children can get to know them and learn more about their school life and to thank us for making a difference.

If you are able, please send your child into school with a £1 donation next week. Together, these contributions will help us begin funding glasses for these children that will make a real difference to their lives. Staff will also contribute so we can make a difference together.

I feel this is a really powerful opportunity to put our faith into action and show how our St Monica's community can care for others beyond our school on an international scale.



Eco Schools Award: Distinction

We are delighted to announce that St Monica's has achieved the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award with Distinction!

The assessors described our application as "outstanding" and were particularly impressed by our children's leadership, ownership and responsibility. They celebrated our prayer garden, tree planting and efforts to encourage walking, cycling and scooting to school.

A huge thank you to Miss Tew and our wonderful Eco Warriors for their hard work, enthusiasm and determination. They have shown how children's ideas can lead to real change, helping us care for God's creation and make our school a greener place.

We are very proud of you all!





Nursery - by Miss Byrne



What a fantastic transition week we have had, we have all been superstars. Along the way, the children have met new friends, become familiar with their new environment and, most importantly, had lots of fun! It has been wonderful to see how well everyone has settled in and grown in confidence throughout the week.

Next week brings even more excitement as the children will be staying for full days and enjoying their packed lunches together. We can't wait to see what fun and learning the week ahead will bring!



Reception - by Miss Andrews and Miss Welsh

What a wonderful first full week Reception have had!

The children have settled in so well and have loved making new friends, exploring their classroom and getting to know their new routines. It has been lovely to see their confidence growing each day as they become more familiar with school life. They have even been enjoying some delicious school dinners along the way!

We are incredibly proud of how well they have settled and are excited for all the fun, learning and new adventures ahead.





Year 1 - by Miss Hatcher and Miss Tew

Year 1 have loved taking our maths learning outdoors! We went on a nature hunt to collect and count different objects, practising accurate counting and developing our understanding of numbers and quantities.

We sat in the outdoor classroom, then we used ten frames to represent the amounts we found and checked our counting to make sure we had counted each object carefully. It was a fun, practical way to develop our mathematical thinking while exploring our school environment!



Year 2- by Mrs Macdonald and Mrs Chorzepa



In Year 2, children deepen their understanding of the Zones of Regulation, recognising that all emotions are important and provide information about how we feel. They explore the four coloured zones and the emotions, feelings and behaviours associated with each.

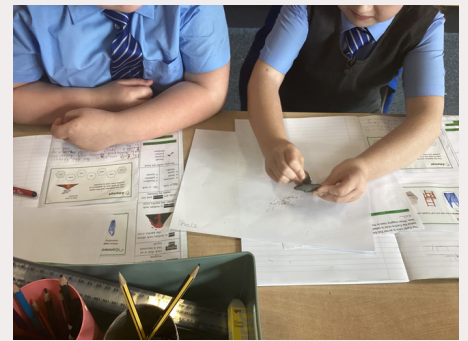
Through discussions, activities and real-life examples, children learn to name their emotions and recognise how feelings affect their behaviour, learning and relationships. They understand that experiencing different emotions throughout the day is normal and that no zone is 'good' or 'bad'. Children begin to develop strategies to manage their emotions, helping them feel ready to learn and engage positively with others.



Year 3 - by Mrs Reardon and Miss Partington

Year 3 have started their new Science topic: Rocks this week. Our key question was: "How are rocks formed?" The children began by exploring different types of rocks and learning about igneous rocks, molten rock, lava and magma. They discovered how these are formed and where they can be found.

The children then took part in a hands-on investigation to explore the hardness of different rocks. They carefully observed, touched and felt a range of rock samples before testing whether they could be scratched or scraped. Using their observations, the children compared the different samples and identified which were hard rocks and which were softer.



Year 4 - by Miss Thomas and Miss Gibbons

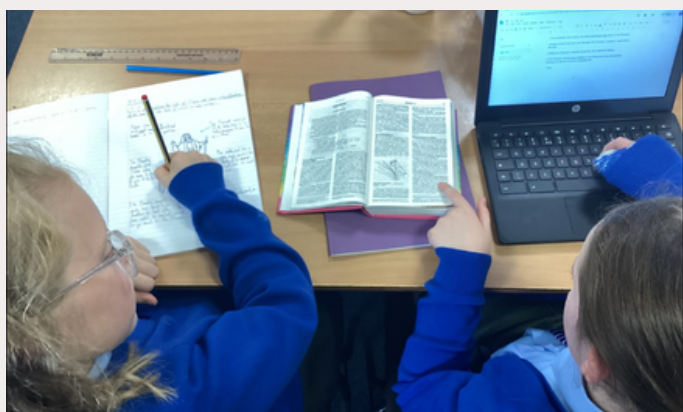


Year 4 have made a fantastic start to the new school year and have settled back into school life really well. One of the highlights so far has been their first swimming lesson, and we were incredibly proud of how well they did! The children approached the lesson with enthusiasm and a positive attitude, listening carefully and giving everything a go. It was wonderful to see them showing confidence in the water, challenging themselves and persevering when things were tricky. They worked hard and encouraged one another throughout the session. We are so proud of their fantastic effort and are excited to see their confidence and swimming skills continue to grow over the coming weeks!



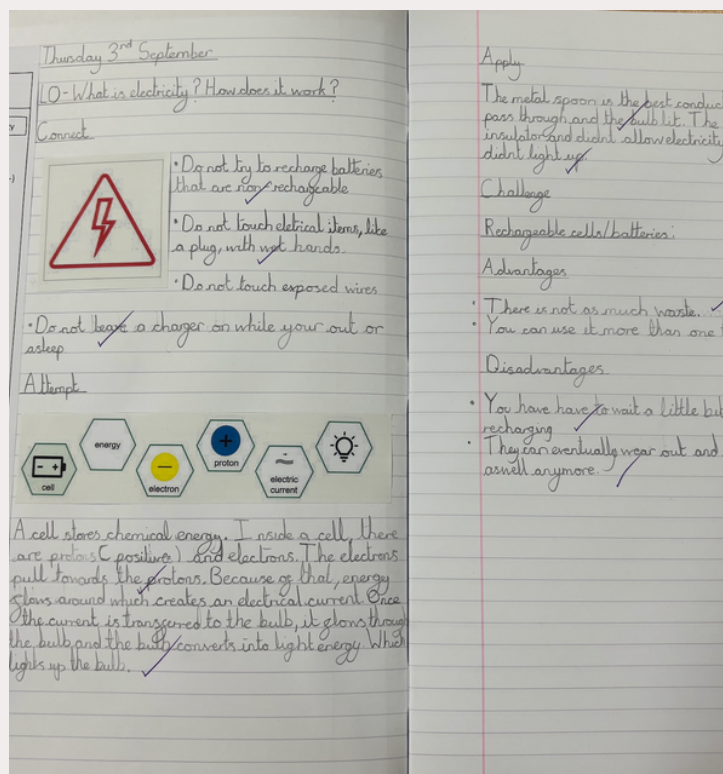
Year 5- by Mrs Ware and Miss McGuckin

Year 5 have made a fantastic start to their new RE topic, Creation and Covenant. We began by learning about the birth of Moses and exploring his early life through Scripture from the Book of Exodus. We began to understand the historical context and the challenging time in which Moses was born, including why his mother made the difficult decision to place him in a basket on the River Nile in order to save his life. The children enjoyed reading and discussing the Scripture and developing their understanding of Moses' important role in God's covenant with His people.



Year 6- by Miss McGiveron, Mr Lynch

Year 6 have made a fantastic start to our new Science topic: Electricity! We began by exploring what electricity actually is and thinking about how it works in our everyday lives. We then got hands-on as we investigated the different components needed to create a series circuit. The children enjoyed identifying and discussing the role of each component, including cells, wires, bulbs and switches, before putting their knowledge into practice by building their own circuits. There was lots of teamwork, problem-solving and scientific thinking as we worked out how to make our circuits work successfully. We're off to a brilliant start and can't wait to see what else we discover as we continue our electricity journey!





SAFEGUARDING TEAM

***WE ARE HERE TO KEEP YOU SAFE AND HAPPY - PLEASE
SEE ANY OF US IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS - AT ANY
TIME.***



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